

The core purpose of the City's federal and state grant programs is to secure state and federal resources to support the strategic goals of the City in a manner consistent with the goals of the programs and/or agencies providing the grant funding.

Overview

Federal and State grants support a wide variety of City programs and services for citizens. The City Manager oversees grant funded activities, as he does locally funded activities, under the direction of the City Council. City staff strive to improve service delivery by expanding program participation and enhancing the nature and scope of services provided. Strong effort and good results are often recognized in the form of increased grant funding as the programs move to an outcomes-based focus.

City departments are encouraged to seek funding for new programs and enhancements to existing programs. In 2002, an Internet based software application was introduced that taps into the databases that list grants available from federal agencies, state governments and their agencies, and private foundations. Weekly departments are notified electronically of new grants opportunities, and extension of existing grants opportunities, so the opportunities may be researched and application made where relevant.

The Finance Department provides oversight and support for the various grants administered by the City. The Grants-in-Aid Coordinator assists City departments in proposing grant-funded activities to the City Council, and also assists the City Council in evaluating and submitting applications for grant assistance. After grants are approved by the sponsoring agencies and the City Council, the Grants-in-Aid Coordinator provides ongoing oversight and assistance for the activities. Services are provided in accordance with program guidelines, City policies and all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

Other Finance staff provide assistance to grant programs as well. The Budget Office evaluates and monitors the fiscal aspects of grant programs, providing ongoing financial oversight as grant activities progress. Budget staff analyze and approve grant budgets, both at the time of initiation and as grant budgets are modified to meet changing needs and realities. The Controller's Office provides general accounting services to grant programs, including processing vouchers, issuing checks, and ensuring that grant financial activities are conducted in accordance with applicable accounting standards and practices.

Grant assistance is not all self-sufficient. Often local participation in the form of cash or in-kind contributions is required. In addition, many grant programs stipulate limitations or full prohibitions on funding for program management staff and oversight, requiring the City to provide staff and other supporting resources from local funding sources. City staff carefully scrutinize each grant program to ensure that this give-and-take relationship results in a net benefit to target populations and the City as a whole.

Health and Social Services.

The **Environmental Health** Department receives grants from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for programs that protect the local environment. The grants are targeted at protection of air and water quality and fund seven full time positions. The grants help pay for environmental testing and monitoring activities designed to identify and assess pollution threats to local air and water resources.

The Health Department utilizes EPA Brownfield funding to conduct environmental site assessments to determine the presence or absence of environmental pollutants. The term "Brownfield" refers to abandoned or under-utilized industrial and commercial sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination that can add cost, time and uncertainty to the value of a redevelopment project.

The EPA also funds the Arkansas River water quality study. The project assesses the water in the lower Arkansas River focusing on pollution sources that diminish the quality of the water and the impact upon the river and its users. Ultimately and as a result of the study, preventive measures will be developed to improve the quality of the river water for the benefit of future generations.

The State of Kansas contracts with Environmental Health to administer the Child Care Licensure program. Activities include conducting assessments for initial licensure and license renewal, follow-up inspections of providers, and investigation of complaints about providers. In any given month, the staff of eight conduct and document up to 300 site visits, investigate an average of 35 complaints, and provide orientation to approximately 100 prospective providers. In addition, the staff provide outreach services to the community and respond to approximately 800 inquiries on child care monthly.

The **Housing Services** Department receives funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Housing and Human Services, and the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOCH). Grant-funded activities include housing and rental assistance through the Wichita Housing Authority (WHA); homeownership assistance through the HOME program; and homeless shelter services provided through the HUD Emergency Shelter Grant and the Kansas Emergency Shelter Grant programs.

Approximately \$500,000 is allocated annually for assistance to first time homebuyers, \$300,000 for homeowner rehabilitation, and \$350,000 for affordable housing development activities to be carried out by non-profit community housing development agencies, such as Mennonite Housing and Power CDC. Home funding is also allocated for the Housing Development Loan Program, a program that can be utilized by non-profit or for-profit developers to provide gap financing for single-family or multi-family housing development projects. In all cases, HOME funds must be used for projects that provide housing for families meeting income criteria.

HOME funds leverage more than \$1,600,000 annually in private loan activity for low- and moderate-income homeownership through the City's homebuyer assistance program. The grant funding administered by Housing Services in connection with this program, provides low- and moderate-income homebuyers with zero interest mortgage loans for down payments, closing costs and minor rehabilitation or repairs. The funding is also utilized to provide existing homeowners with loans for home repairs/rehabilitation required to bring homes up to acceptable living standards. Both programs operate in targeted investment areas. In addition, under the HUD Section 5(h) program, single-family WHA Public Housing units will be offered for sale to their residents and other low-income persons. Also qualifying Section 8 recipients may purchase homes and apply their monthly rental assistance toward mortgage loan payments under a program implemented by Housing Services.

The **Career Development Office** utilizes funding from the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for job training, placement and employment assistance programs. Adult and youth programs funded under the Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Welfare to Work program (WTW) are available to citizens in a six county region, which includes Sedgwick, Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman and Sumner counties.

The Workforce Investment Act is available to all adults in a legal work status. Adult services begin with an assessment of readiness for the labor market, then job search assistance and services designed to meet the needs of the individual customer. Youth services are available to low-income, at-risk youth and include a broader range of options responsive to the more serious needs of the target group. Grant funding for WIA services is approximately \$1.8 million annually.

Services available under WTW are similar to those in WIA, however services are limited to welfare recipients and low-income individuals. The Welfare to Work (WTW) program received funding within the legislation for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families in 1998 and 1999. Congress has made not additional allocations after the first two years of operation of the Welfare to Work program and it is not certain at this time whether the Temporary Assistance to Need Families federal legislation will include a Welfare to Work component in its reauthorization. The original allocation of \$4.3 million will be exhausted in late 2003.

Eight Employment Specialists provide direct services under the WTW and WIA programs. The Employment Specialists serve as case managers, working individually with clients from the first contact through job placement and retention. To maintain productive caseload limits for the Specialists, case management services for additional customers are purchased from local agencies on a fee for service basis.

Career Development also administers the Community Services Block Grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The current annual budget of one million funds operations for four of the Neighborhood City Halls, prescription drugs for Project Access patients, neighborhood clean-ups, and the Park Department's Summer of Discovery Program. The funds supplement the WIA and WTW programs which have limitations on administrative costs.

Public Safety. The City of Wichita Police Department and Municipal Court administer grants provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the purpose of enhancing public safety. The grant funded programs relate to hiring of new public safety staff, purchases of crime-fighting equipment, and safe and drug-free schools. Currently approximately \$500,000 is received annually for such activities, approximately half of the funding received in past years.

Planning, Transportation and Infrastructure. The City of Wichita receives grants from the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), and HUD (through the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)). The grants provide assistance in comprehensive community planning; development of public transportation systems; and street, sidewalk, and other infrastructure improvements in targeted areas.

Utilizing funding from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing (KDOCH), the Metropolitan Area Planning Department has completed several neighborhood sector plans and is continuing a visioning

process with neighborhood residents in the various areas of the City. The plans help define neighborhood revitalization/conservation needs and priorities.

The FTA assists Wichita Transit in financing transit planning and administrative support activities, vehicle maintenance, and special services. In 2003, approximately 70 percent of vehicle maintenance costs will be funded through an FTA grant. The FTA also provides funding for capital improvements, including vehicle and maintenance equipment, replacement buses, para-transit vans for transporting physically challenged citizens, benches, shelters, and technology needs. On the state side, the Kansas Legislature adopted a comprehensive transportation plan in 1999 to assist with growing public transportation needs and costs. The resulting funding from KDOT has been directed to both capital needs and enhanced service.

The Public Works Department receives CDBG funding to support contracted improvements to public and neighborhood facilities and infrastructure. Examples include street improvements, sidewalk repair and enhancements and public facility improvements to accommodate disabled citizens. All of the activities are targeted toward low- and moderate-income citizens and areas of the City.

The Health Department utilizes CDBG funds to conduct inspections of properties in targeted areas that are violating housing and health standards. The efforts strive to maintain attractive and safe neighborhoods.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provides grant funding to support the capital needs of the Wichita Mid-Continent and Jbara Airport facilities. The funds are supplemented by a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) of \$3 on each enplaning passenger. The FAA recently granted permission to continue the PFC program through 2004.

Culture. The Wichita Public Library receives grants from the Kansas State Library System (KSLS) and the South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS). KSLS grants provide funding for staff members, library materials, office supplies, and computer support. Programs funded include development of the Inter-library Loan system; special services for blind and physically disabled library patrons; and grants-in-aid for discretionary use as designated by the Wichita Public Library. The SCKLS funds staff and library materials in support of cooperative library programs throughout South Central Kansas. Overall, grants provide funding for ten full time equivalent Library employees.

General. The City Manager's Office receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support citizen involvement and outreach programs, neighborhood assistance/improvement services, and neighborhood community centers. The City strives to improve public participation in the community decision-making process for a collaborative approach to solve community problems and target community needs.

The Finance Department receives CDBG funding, primarily for oversight and administration of CDBG programs. In addition, CDBG funding provides for economic development activities in program-targeted investment areas. The activities seek to expand local economic development and opportunities in areas of the City where development has stagnated or declined.